

Remarks

Entry of the above-noted amendments, reconsideration of the application, and allowance of all claims pending are respectfully requested. By this amendment, claims 22 and 24-26 are amended and claims 27, 35, and 37 are canceled. These amendments to the claims constitute a bona fide attempt by applicants to advance prosecution of the application and obtain allowance of certain claims, and are in no way meant to acquiesce to the substance of the rejections. It is believed that the amendments made herein place the entire application in condition for allowance and/or better form for appeal. These amendments were not made earlier because the claims as previously submitted were believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants submit no new search is required since all the claim language added to claims 22 and 25 was previously recited in dependent claims 35 and 37, respectively. Claims 1-6, 8-10, 13-14, 16, 18-26, 28-34, and 36 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Claims 1-6, 8-10, 13-14, 16, and 18-21 are allowed. Applicants gratefully acknowledge this indication of allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 22-31 and 33-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shaffer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,995,596; "Shaffer") in view of Porter (U.S. Patent No. 5,963,618). Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shaffer in view of Porter and further in view of Hamel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,943,402). These rejections are respectfully, but most strenuously, traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action's citations to the applied references, with or without modification or combination, assuming, *arguendo*, that the modification or

combination of the Office Action's citations to the applied references is proper, do not teach or suggest one or more elements of the claimed invention, as further discussed below.

For explanatory purposes, applicants discuss herein one or more differences between the Office Action's citations to the applied references and the claimed invention with reference to one or more parts of the applied references. This discussion, however, is in no way meant to acquiesce in any characterization that one or more parts of the Office Action's citations to the applied references correspond to the claimed invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action's citations to the applied references do not teach or suggest one or more elements of the claimed invention. A careful reading of the Office Action's citations to the applied references fails to teach or suggest, for example, the first voice mailbox that employs the address to access the voicemail message at the location on the storage device, wherein the second voice mailbox employs the address to access the voicemail message at the location on the storage device; wherein the address comprises a domain name, a directory name, and a file name of the voicemail message in the storage device; wherein the storage device stores an only copy of the voicemail message, wherein the voicemail message is not duplicated to either the first voice mailbox or the second voice mailbox, as recited in applicants' independent claim 22.

Shaffer (column 3, lines 22-46; FIG. 3) discloses a messaging system that employs a token in a user's local mailbox to indicate the presence of a message in a remote mailbox. After reception of the message at the remote mailbox, the remote mailbox generates and transfers the token to the local mailbox. At a later time, the user will access the local mailbox and find the token. Once the user accesses the local mailbox and finds the token, the remote mailbox will transfer a copy of the message that corresponds to the token to the local mailbox. The message

that corresponds to the token is duplicated and a copy of the message is transferred from the remote mailbox to the local mailbox. The token indicates to the local mailbox to download the message from the remote mailbox. The download process creates two copies of the message (one stored at the remote server and one stored at the local server). Creating extra copies of the message uses up additional storage space and makes message modification more difficult. There is no disclosure in Shaffer of an only copy of the message being stored in a shared storage component so that two different mailboxes can access that single copy of the message (without duplication of the message) by using an address of the location in the storage component where the message is stored.

Simply missing from the Office Action's citation to Shaffer is any mention of the first voice mailbox that employs the address to access the voicemail message at the location on the storage device, wherein the second voice mailbox employs the address to access the voicemail message at the location on the storage device; wherein the address comprises a domain name, a directory name, and a file name of the voicemail message in the storage device; wherein the storage device stores an only copy of the voicemail message, wherein the voicemail message is not duplicated to either the first voice mailbox or the second voice mailbox, as recited in applicants' independent claim 22.

So, the Office Action's citation to Shaffer fails to satisfy at least one of the limitations recited in applicants' independent claim 22.

The shortcomings of the Office Action's citation to Shaffer relative to certain elements of the claimed invention have been discussed above. The Office Action proposes a combination of the citation to Shaffer with a citation to Porter. However, the Office Action's citation to Porter does not overcome the deficiency of the Office Action's citation to Shaffer. Applicants

respectfully submit that the proposed combination of the Office Action's citation to Shaffer with the Office Action's citation to Porter fails to provide the required approach, assuming, *arguendo*, that the combination of the Office Action's citation to Shaffer with the Office Action's citation to Porter is proper.

Porter discloses (col. 11, lines 24-67) a voice processing system that, upon receipt of an incoming message, delivers the incoming message to the mailbox for the intended subscriber. The mailbox stores the message until the subscriber can access the message from the mailbox in a conventional fashion. There is no disclosure in Porter of an only copy of the message being stored in a shared storage component so that two different mailboxes can access that single copy of the message (without duplication of the message) by using an address of the location in the storage component where the message is stored.

Simply missing from the Office Action's citation to Porter is any mention of the first voice mailbox that employs the address to access the voicemail message at the location on the storage device, wherein the second voice mailbox employs the address to access the voicemail message at the location on the storage device; wherein the address comprises a domain name, a directory name, and a file name of the voicemail message in the storage device; wherein the storage device stores an only copy of the voicemail message, wherein the voicemail message is not duplicated to either the first voice mailbox or the second voice mailbox, as recited in applicants' independent claim 22.

So, the Office Action's citation to Porter fails to satisfy at least one of the limitations recited in applicants' independent claim 22.

The Office Action's citations to Shaffer and Porter both fail to meet at least one of applicants' claimed features. For example, there is no teaching or suggestion in the Office

Action's citations to Shaffer or Porter of the first voice mailbox that employs the address to access the voicemail message at the location on the storage device, wherein the second voice mailbox employs the address to access the voicemail message at the location on the storage device; wherein the address comprises a domain name, a directory name, and a file name of the voicemail message in the storage device; wherein the storage device stores an only copy of the voicemail message, wherein the voicemail message is not duplicated to either the first voice mailbox or the second voice mailbox, as recited in applicants' independent claim 22.

Furthermore, the Office Action does not allege that the art of record provides any teaching, suggestion, or incentive for modifying the citations to Shaffer and/or Porter to provide the claimed configuration.

For all the reasons presented above with reference to claim 22, claims 22 and 25 are believed neither anticipated nor obvious over the art of record. The corresponding dependent claims are believed allowable for the same reasons as independent claims 22 and 25, as well as for their own additional characterizations.

Withdrawal of the § 103 rejections is therefore respectfully requested.

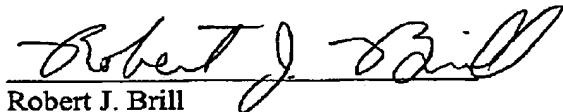
In addition, dependent claims 34 and 36 presented herewith are believed neither anticipated nor obvious over the art of the record. For example, a careful reading of the Office Action's citations to the applied references fails to teach or suggest the first and second voice mailboxes accessing the voicemail message in the storage device over the internet protocol network without going through any other mailbox, as recited in applicants' dependent claims 34 and 36 presented herewith. The local mailboxes in Shaffer access another remote mailbox to retrieve the voice message. For example, in FIG. 3 of Shaffer, the phone mail system 2 must connect with phone mail system 1 to retrieve a message that corresponds to a token.

20

LUC-322/Green 1-1-1-2-32

In view of the above amendments and remarks, allowance of all claims pending is respectfully requested. If an additional telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert J. Brill
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 36,760

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PATTI & BRILL, LLC
Customer Number 47382